



The Incarcerated Individuals Welfare Fund (IIWF): A Descriptive Analysis

COMPLETED BY:

Allegheny County Department of Human Services, August 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board (JOB) is responsible for, among other things, authorizing expenditures of the Incarcerated Individuals Welfare Fund (IIWF). ([Article 2014: Jail Oversight Board](#)).

The IIWF is funded from commissions on commissary, phones and tablets within the jail; with JOB approval, that money is deposited to incarcerated individuals accounts.

Since 2022, the JOB has approved monthly disbursements from the IIWF of \$125 to every individual physically present in the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) on the disbursement date. Individuals may use these funds to purchase commissary items, tablet-related amenities and telephone communication or to pay fees or bonds; they may also save the balance for use after release.

This report provides a descriptive analysis of the IIWF expenditures and the individuals who received the funding during 2024 and offers options for the fund's future for consideration by the JOB.

Findings:

1. **Sixty-three percent of individuals booked into the ACJ in 2024 received at least one \$125 payment from the IIWF during their jail stay. Most individuals (88%) who did not receive funds were in the ACJ for two weeks or less.** If the monthly IIWF funds were **disbursed more frequently, more people would receive a payment.**
2. **Twenty percent of people who received the IIWF funds did not receive any other deposits in their account.** Most of them (63%) stayed less than a month.
3. **External deposits (from family and friends) continued to be applied to people's accounts and did not decrease with the onset of the IIWF deposits. People in ACJ who received funds during their first month of booking spent more on every category of purchase—the greatest difference in spending was in commissary items.** During the most recent quarter, more than 90% of commissary spending was on food-related items (e.g., chips, candy, beverages).
4. **People receiving IIWF funds left the jail with more money than those who did not.** Among people who were in ACJ for one month or less, recipients of IIWF payments were released with a median of \$125, \$105 more than the median of non-recipients. They were also almost **5x more likely** than non-recipients to be released with balances over \$50. Although longer stayers—individuals who stayed more than a month—spent most of their money while in jail, their median fund balance at release was \$60 after the implementation of IIWF, compared with \$4 pre-IIWF (2017 through 2019). Similarly, 76% of long stayers had a balance of \$10 or more at release post-IIWF, compared to 45% pre-IIWF.
5. A scan of the literature on cash payments at time of release suggests mixed results. An analysis of local data finds that those who left ACJ with more than \$75 **did not have significant differences** in short-term (one month) outcomes (e.g., rebooking into ACJ, emergency room usage, shelter usage/street homelessness) compared to those who exited the jail without funds.

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OVERVIEW

The Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board (JOB) approved monthly disbursements of \$125 to individuals' accounts at its October 6, 2022 meeting and has continued to approve funds since that time, disbursing a total of more than \$6.5 million to more than 10,000 accounts. In 2024 alone, \$2.6 million was disbursed to over 6,000 accounts. Individual recipients can use these funds to make purchases on phone calls, tablet entertainment and communications, or commissary items; pay for legal fees like fines or bail; or save for use after release. On average, funds were disbursed every 30 days. However, the time between disbursements varied monthly depending on when the JOB approved them. A complete list of disbursement dates and days between disbursements is available in the **Appendix**. All individuals booked in Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) at the date of the disbursement received the IIWF funds.

The Incarcerated Individuals Welfare Fund (IIWF) is funded through telephone, tablet and commissary commissions that result in about \$250,000 per month into the fund (see **Table 1**). With no changes to telephone commissions and assuming a stable jail population of 1,800, the IIWF could continue to disburse \$125 per person every month (monthly total of \$225,000).

TABLE 1: Projected monthly commissions with no change in commission rates

COMMISSION	ESTIMATED MONTHLY COMMISSION
Telephone commission	\$128,463
Tablet commission	\$25,803
Commissary commission	\$95,476
Total	\$249,742

There are a number of policy and practice changes being proposed by the ACJ will likely impact the fund's revenue streams. For example, it is expected that the County will lower commission rates on phone and tablets with its new communications contract, which will result in a decrease in the amount of money coming into the fund and make \$125 monthly disbursements unsustainable. The JOB requested this analysis to inform future directions of the fund.

METHODOLOGY

This report focuses on people in the ACJ at any point in 2024. During this period, most IIWF disbursements took place during the first 10 days of the month. DHS used information from the ACJ's Offender Management System (OMS) to determine who received the funding and to analyze their account and spending patterns; data from the County's integrated data warehouse was used to examine post-release outcomes for those who received funds compared to those who did not.

We conducted two analyses of the full population who received the funds: comparative and descriptive. For our comparative analysis, we compared people who received IIWF to a group of individuals who were booked into ACJ during the disbursement day or one day afterwards and therefore did not receive the funds. For this group,

we compared trends in spending and deposits only for the first month of their jail stays, as anyone who was in the jail for longer than that time received at least one IIWF payment. We also compared outcomes for those who were released in 2024 with a final balance of \$75 to those who left with \$0. The outcomes we examined were rebooking into ACJ, emergency room usage, and usage of emergency homeless shelter or engagement with street outreach (street homelessness). We also described spending trends for anyone who received IIWF funds over the entirety of their jail stay. We used data and estimates from the County Budget Office to project the IIWF cash balance.

LIMITATIONS

We compared spending and deposits between fund recipients and non-recipients within the first month after booking because, after a month of incarceration, almost everyone had received at least one fund payment. However, spending patterns in the first month of booking may not be fully representative of spending behavior for jail stays longer than a month. Additionally, since non-recipients had shorter stays than fund recipients, there are likely to be some systematic differences that we cannot fully account for. For instance, spending and deposits in the first weeks of booking may look different for individuals who expected to be incarcerated for several months versus individuals who expected to be released in a few days.

We provided sample projections for the fund balance under different policy scenarios. These projections are simplified models based on data provided from the County on historical fund balance; spending behavior is likely to change with reductions in IIWF contributions and/or commission rates. The fund projections in this analysis are intended to estimate how the balance would be affected by different policy scenarios.

Finally, we had limited visibility into spending and deposits on individual accounts—while we could see that someone spent money on commissary, for instance, we could not know the specific items that were purchased. Similarly, while we could see when deposits were made by sources external to the IIWF, these deposits could have been made through checks, money orders or using kiosks; jail staff indicated most deposits are from family and friends, but we aren't able to observe that in the data. Because these deposits could have come from the individual's personal financial accounts or from family and friends, we simply identified those as "external deposits."

FINDINGS

Who was getting IIWF funds and when?

During 2024, 63% of people in the ACJ received at least one disbursement from IIWF funds during their booking (see **Table 2**). Eighty-eight percent (N=3,914) of those who did not receive this funding stayed for 14 days or less.

TABLE 2: Length of stay for individuals who received funds vs. those who did not receive funds, 2024

TOTAL LENGTH OF STAY	PEOPLE BOOKED WHO RECEIVED IIWF FUNDS	ALL BOOKINGS	% WHO RECEIVED FUNDS
<= 3 days	198	1,577	13%
4-7 days	242	1,430	17%
8-14 days	526	1,420	37%
15-21 days	514	816	63%
22-28 days	501	593	84%
>28 days	4,776	4,835	99%
Total	6,757	10,671	63%

Since the receipt of funds each month depended on how long someone was incarcerated, those demographic groups who typically stayed for shorter periods of time were also less likely to receive funds in any given month. Specifically, both Black and White women were less likely to receive IIWF funds during their time in ACJ, while Black men, who make up the highest proportion of people in ACJ and who are more likely to stay for a longer period of time, were more likely to receive funds (see **Table 3**).

TABLE 3: Monthly average demographic breakdown of IIWF recipients

	RECEIVED FUNDS
Black Men	76% (1027)
White Men	68% (480)
Black Women	63% (92)
White Women	58% (119)

Impact of increasing frequency of IIWF disbursement

The current IIWF disbursement process uses a single procedure to post one transaction to all active accounts, which is easy to replicate on any given day. Under the current monthly disbursement schedule, 63% of people booked into the jail in 2024 received at least one IIWF contribution. If the JOB were to disburse more frequently, more individuals would receive at least one check. If disbursed weekly, 85% of the jail population would receive at least one check and, if daily, all individuals would receive a check. To increase the proportion of individuals receiving IIWF funds, the JOB might consider increasing the frequency of disbursement under any of the scenarios in **Table 4**.

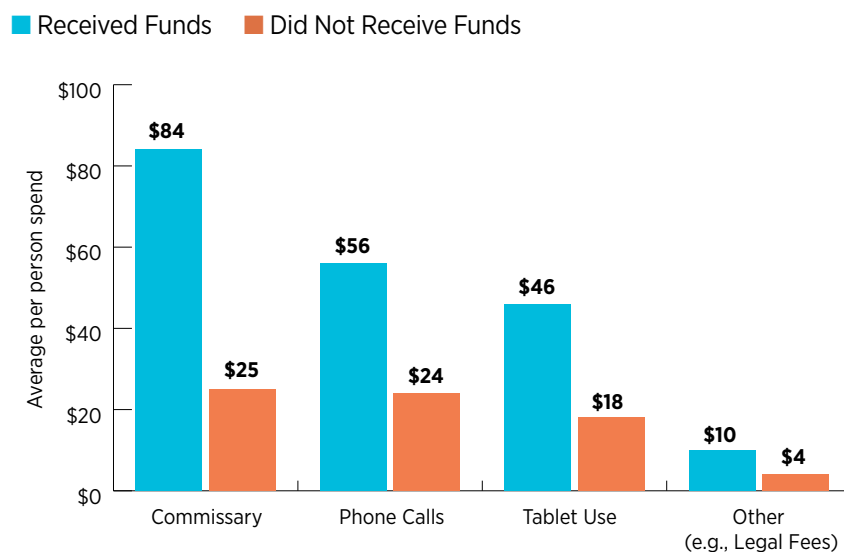
TABLE 4: Percentage of Population in ACJ receiving at least one IIWF contribution, by frequency of disbursement

DISBURSEMENT FREQUENCY	% OF POPULATION RECEIVING AT LEAST ONE IIWF CONTRIBUTION
Daily	100%
Every 3 days	97%
Once a week	85%
Twice a month	74%
Monthly (current state)	63%

How were IIWF funds used?

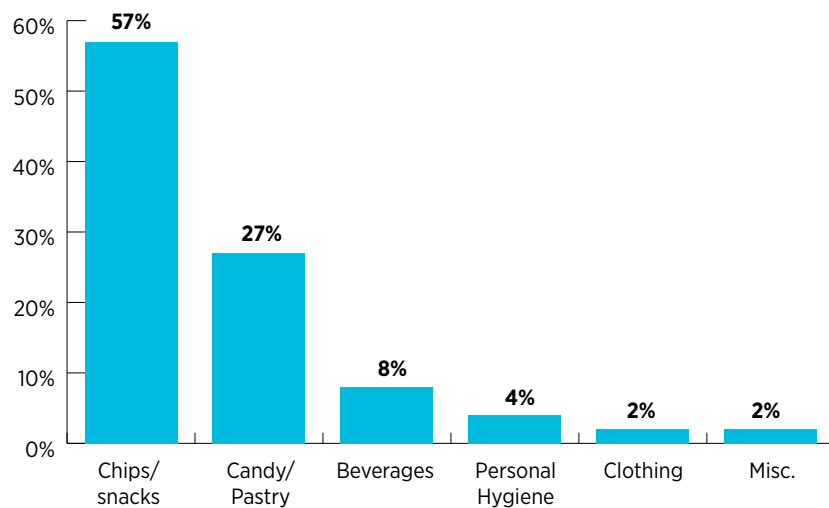
IIWF recipients spent more than non-recipients on all items, but most of the increase was in commissary purchases; during the first month of booking, recipients spent an average of three times more on commissary items than non-recipients. They also spent about two times more on phone calls and tablet purchases. A percentage spent a small portion of their funds on legal fees within the first month (\$10 for those who received IIWF and \$4 for those who did not) (see **Figure 1**).

FIGURE 1: Average per person spending in first month of booking, by category of spending



During the most recent quarter (April through June 2025), 92% of spending in the commissary was on food-related items, with the largest category being chips/snacks (57%), followed by candy/pastry (27%) and beverages (8%). The remaining 8% was mostly spent on personal hygiene and clothing items (see Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: Percent of sales at ACJ Commissary from April through June 2025, by category



People staying in jail longer were more likely to spend all of the money in their accounts. In **Table 5**, we show the median cumulative spend and deposit amounts over time. By the second or third month, people in jail are spending almost as much as they are receiving. By six months, they are spending 99% of all deposits.

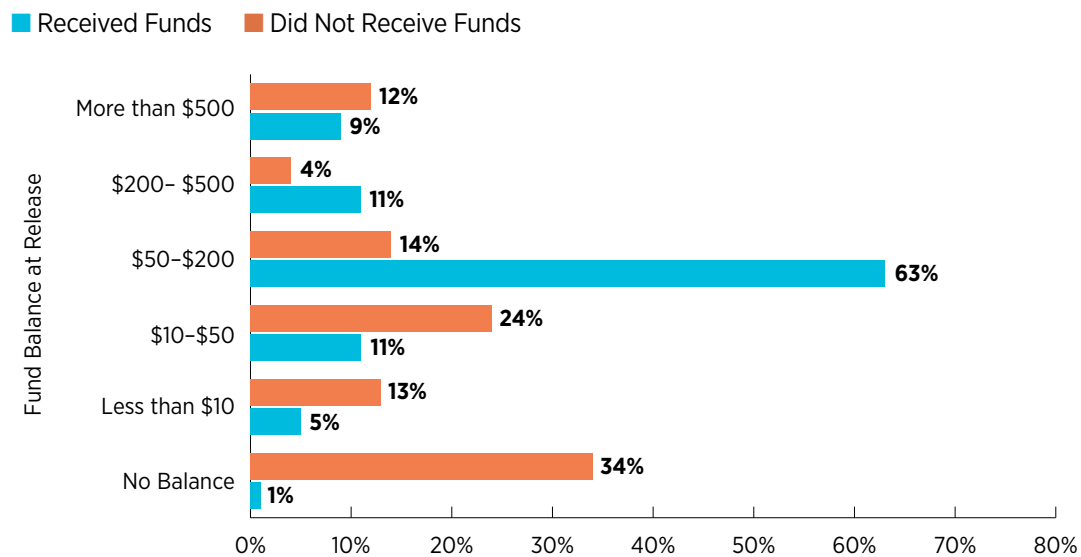
TABLE 5: Median per-person point-in-time deposits and spending, fund recipients

TIME SINCE BOOKING	MEDIAN SPEND	MEDIAN DEPOSIT	PERCENTAGE SPENT
2 weeks	\$110	\$153	67%
1 month	\$256	\$314	87%
2 months	\$515	\$583	93%
3 months	\$778	\$864	95%
6 months	\$1,811	\$1,885	99%
9 months	\$2,711	\$2,900	99%
1 year	\$3,873	\$3,873	100%

Money at release

In addition to spending more while in ACJ, recipients were also more likely to leave ACJ with money. Fund recipients were more likely than non-recipients to be released with a positive balance—94% of recipients left ACJ with at least \$10 compared to only 53% of non-recipients. Among people who were in ACJ for one month or less, recipients of IIWF payments were released with a median of \$125, while non-recipients were released with a median of \$20. They were also almost five times more likely than non-recipients to be released with balances over \$50 (see **Figure 3**). This indicates that fund payments may benefit people in jail not just as spending money while incarcerated, but also as a small cash supplement as they transition back into the community.

FIGURE 3: Percentage of people released within 1 month, by final balance at release



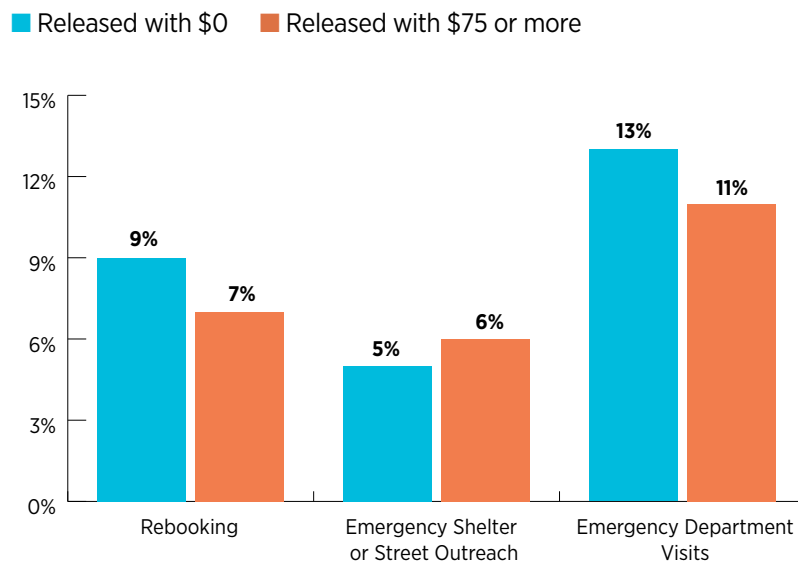
As mentioned above, those who stayed longer tended to spend most of their funds while in jail. However, they did leave with a median fund balance of \$60 compared to \$4 for those who stayed longer than a month and were released from 2017 through 2019 (before IIWF contributions began).

Outcomes for people released with a fund balance

DHS compared outcomes for individuals who were released from ACJ with \$0 to those who left with more than \$75. Although those released with funds had slightly lower rebooking and emergency room rates, this was not statistically significant (see **Figure 4**). These outcomes remained consistent at one week, one month, three months and six months.

These findings align with the literature, showing that although these funds can help provide for immediate needs like bus passes or food, their impact on improving outcomes is less clear. The literature summary can be found in the **Appendix**.

FIGURE 4: One-month outcomes for individuals released in 2024 without a fund balance versus those released with more than \$75.

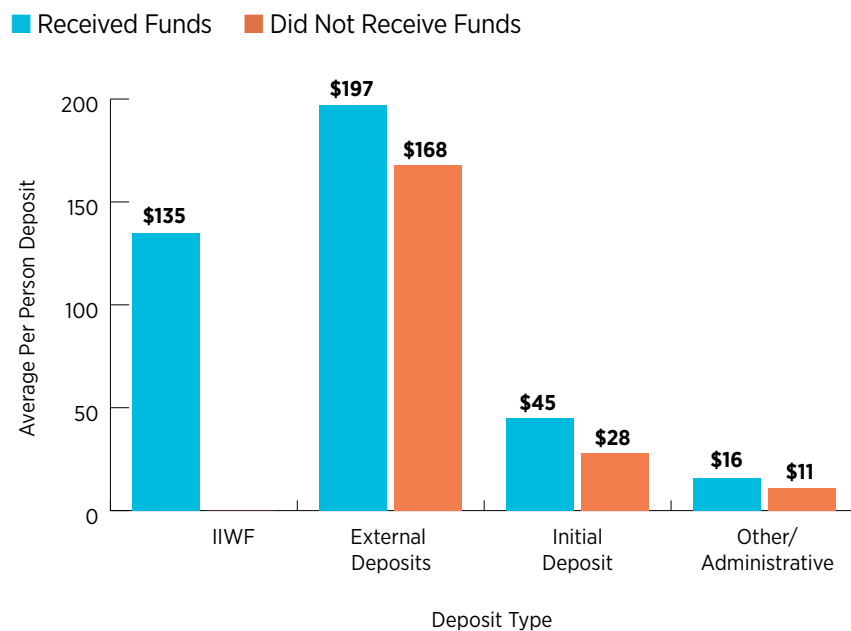


How is the IIWF contributing to accounts for people in ACJ?

Other than the IIWF payments, people in ACJ can receive funds from a personal account or friends and family members; they may also receive nominal payments from special programs, such as a vaccine incentive or the foster youth relief fund. Additionally, any cash that individuals have with them at the time of booking is deposited into their accounts ('initial deposit' in **Figure 5**).

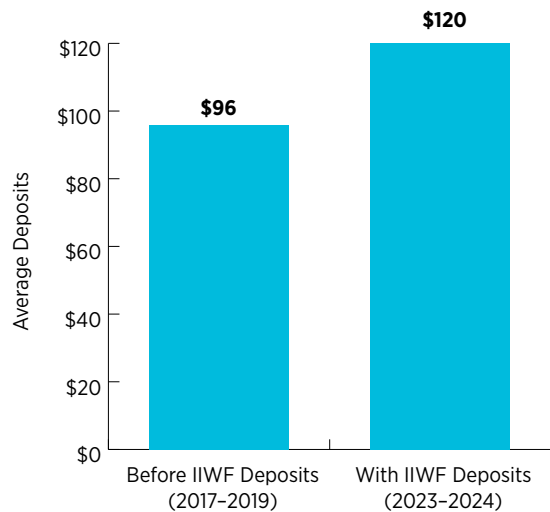
When comparing raw numbers, people in ACJ who received IIWF funds had over twice the value of deposits in their first month of booking than those who didn't. Within the first month of booking, recipients had roughly 42% more in monthly deposits than non-recipients. Deposits from external sources still accounted for the highest share of funds deposited during the first month of booking, which suggests that the funds from the IIWF were additive.

FIGURE 5: Average per-person first-month deposits by source among fund recipients and non-recipients who stayed longer than two weeks, 2024



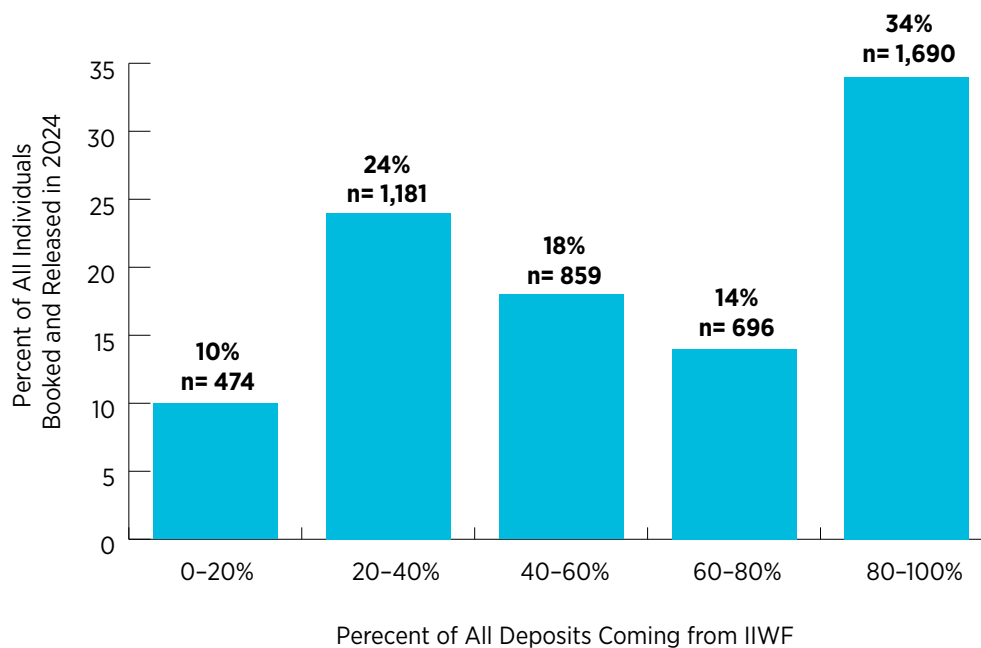
We were also interested in seeing whether the IIWF fund resulted in lower contributions from external sources (e.g., family and friends). When we took the average of deposits to individuals' accounts before IIWF and with IIWF deposits, we found that external deposits continue post-IIWF and were in fact slightly higher from 2023 through 2024 than from 2017 through 2019 (see **Figure 6**). Therefore, there is no evidence to suggest that family and friends will contribute less than they did before the IIWF started disbursing funds.

FIGURE 6: Average deposits by family and friends, before and with IIWF deposit policy



What proportion of monthly deposits came from the IIWF deposits?

We categorized individuals in the jail by what percentage of their deposits came from IIWF (see **Figure 7**). If someone's only source of deposits while in ACJ was the IIWF, we considered them to be 100% reliant on the IIWF. We found that about a third of individuals relied on the fund for more than 80% of all their deposits, a third for 40-80% of their deposits and a third for less than 40%. IIWF was the sole source of in-jail spending money for 20% of individuals. Sixty-three percent of this population stayed at ACJ for less than one month.

FIGURE 7: Distribution of individuals in jail based on the proportion of all deposits coming from IIWF

Looking at the distribution by race and gender, we saw that White men and Black women were disproportionately more likely than White women and Black men to rely on the IIWF. A greater proportion of White men and Black women fell into the category of highest reliance (80-100%) on the IIWF (38% and 39%, respectively). This trend holds even when we looked only at individuals who were incarcerated for over a month.

POLICY OPTIONS

The JOB could change how it uses the IIWF in the following ways.

1. **If continuing to disburse IIWF funds to individuals in jail, consider more frequent disbursements.** If funds were disbursed every day, all individuals booked into ACJ would receive them. If the funds were disbursed every week, 85% of people would receive them. This is compared to current practice of monthly disbursements, which results in 63% of people booked receiving funds.
2. **Continue to disburse all funds in the IIWF directly to people in the jail. This will most likely have to be at a lower amount than is currently disbursed.** A sustainable rate would be equal to (or below) the monthly revenue (commissions) divided by the number of people incarcerated in ACJ at that point in time. If the JOB planned the disbursement around an anticipated elimination of phone commissions, a sustainable disbursement would be about \$70 per person per month (see Appendix for more details). This estimate will change with fluctuations in the ACJ population, spending patterns or commission rates, so periodic recalculations of the optimal rate would be advisable.
3. **Reduce the amount disbursed to individuals in order to allocate some funds to other purposes.** The JOB could decrease funds disbursed to individuals to an amount that corresponds to the price of a bundle of goods. For example, using ACJ's commissary pricing, we determined that it would cost an individual about \$35-40 to purchase dental hygiene and other toiletries, a change of undergarments and some miscellaneous toiletries and still have some remaining funds to buy food items. See Appendix for details about free items and the cost of commissary goods.

The JOB could designate the balance of the fund to be spent on pre-approved items (e.g., new basketballs) that might benefit the entire ACJ population. In this case, the JOB could pre-approve items and receive a monthly expenditure report from the jail.
4. **Eliminate disbursements to individuals and use the fund entirely for programming.** As mentioned above, in this case, the JOB could pre-approve eligible items and the jail could report back on spending monthly.

Should the JOB decide to decrease monthly disbursements, **it can be done all at once or as a gradual reduction in monthly disbursements.** To support this decision, Allegheny County provided the JOB with a tool that simulates various scenarios and shows the annual revenue, annual spend and amount disbursed per person that would be sustainable.

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Supporting information

Disbursement schedule

Below is a table detailing out the date the JOB approved fund disbursement and the date they were disbursed. (see Appendix Table 1).

APPENDIX TABLE 1: Dates of approval and disbursement of \$125 from the IIWF

DATE OF APPROVAL	APPROVED FOR	MONTH APPROVED	DATE OF DISBURSEMENT	DAYS BETWEEN DISBURSEMENTS
10/6/2022	Current month	October	11/1/2022	-
11/3/2022	Current month	November	12/13/2022	42
12/1/2022	Current month	December	12/19/2022	6
1/5/2023	1 Quarter (January–March)	January	2/1/2023	44
		February	2/15/2023	14
		March	3/10/2023	23
3/2/2023	2 Quarter (April–June)	April	4/7/2023	28
		May	5/5/2023	28
		June	6/7/2023	33
7/6/2023	3 Quarter (July–September)	July	7/26/2023	49
		August	8/11/2023	16
		September	9/13/2023	33
9/7/2023	4 Quarter (October–December)	October	10/18/2023	35
		November	11/13/2023	26
		December	12/6/2023	23
12/7/2024	1 Semester (January–June)	January	1/24/2024	49
		February	2/7/2024	14
		March	3/6/2024	28
		April	4/5/2024	30
		May	5/9/2024	34
		June	6/13/2024	35
6/6/2024	2 Semester (July–December)	July	7/10/2024	27
		August	8/7/2024	28
		September	9/12/2024	36
		October	10/9/2024	27
		November	11/6/2024	28
		December	12/6/2024	30
1/9/2025	Current month	January	1/24/2025	49
2/6/2025	7 months (February to August)	February	2/21/2025	28
		March	3/7/2025	14
		April	4/9/2025	33

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APPENDIX TABLE 2: Relative fund reliance by race and gender**

RELiance ON IIWF BY RACE* AND GENDER					
	BLACK MEN	BLACK WOMEN	WHITE MEN	WHITE WOMEN	TOTAL
Highest reliance	512 (22%)	99 (27%)	444 (28%)	148 (27%)	1203 (25%)
High reliance	533 (23%)	103 (28%)	436 (27%)	137 (25%)	1209 (25%)
Some reliance	574 (25%)	91 (25%)	414 (26%)	145 (26%)	1224 (25%)
Least reliance	717 (31%)	74 (20%)	297 (19%)	126 (23%)	1214 (25%)
Total	2336	367	1591	556	4850

* Other racial groups are not reported due to the small number of individuals self-identified as such

** Percentages are calculated relative to each demographic group. An even distribution in a given demographic group would show 25% in each reliance group. Proportions greater than 25% indicate overrepresentation, while those less than 25% indicate underrepresentation.

Goods Provided

All individuals who pass through intake at the ACJ receive the following items free of charge: one hygiene pack, two shirts, two pairs of socks, two sets of underwear, two bras, two jail uniform shirts, two jail uniform pants, one pair of slides, one pair of shoes and two blankets.

The hygiene pack contains one tube of toothpaste (1.5 oz), one toothbrush, one bar of soap, one bottle of shampoo (1.5 oz) and one deodorant. Women may have as many feminine products as they need, although individuals may desire to purchase brand-specific items from the commissary.

APPENDIX**Commissary prices**

Appendix Table 3 shows our estimation of how much it would cost an individual to purchase basic hygiene items from the commissary at ACJ.

APPENDIX TABLE 3: Cost per item for basic hygiene items at ACJ

ITEM	COST
Toothbrush, toothbrush holder, toothpaste	\$3.50
Comb/brush	\$1.25
Deodorant	\$4.00
Soap, shampoo, conditioner	\$6.50
Socks, underwear	\$5.25
Misc. toiletries: hair products, lotion, foot powder, vitamins, painkillers, feminine products	\$9.50
Food items (chips, candy, etc.)	\$5-\$10
Total	\$35-\$40

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The following charts show current commissary pricing for non-food items at the ACJ. Items included in the \$35-\$40 estimate for basic goods are highlighted.

APPENDIX FIGURE 1: Current commissary pricing for non-food items at the ACJ

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Part no	Description	Brand	Size	Menu Price
500	HYGIENE			
5027	Toothbrush Blue Flex Sec.	Maxill	4.00 Inch	1.55
506	Toothpaste Colgate 1oz	Colgate	1.00 OZ	1.25
5061	Toothpaste Col. Tartar Control 2.5oz	Colgate	2.50 OZ	2.05
5071	Toothpaste Col. Sensitive	Colgate	6.00 OZ	9.95
509	Mouthwash	Fresh Scent	4.00 OZ	0.75
5136	After Shave 4oz	FreshScent	4.00 OZ	1.75
515	Comb 5 Inch	Plastic	5.00 Inch	0.10
518	Club/Palm Brush	Oval Plastic 4"	4.00 Inch	1.05
519	Deodorant Stick 2.25oz	Freshscent	2.25 OZ	3.10
5192	Deodorant Stick 1.6oz	Fresh Scent	1.60 OZ	1.60
521	Deodorant Mennen	Mennen	1.80 OZ	3.95
522	Soap Dove	Dove Unilever	3.17 OZ	3.95
524	Deodorant Lady Speedstick	Mennen	1.40 OZ	3.45
532	Soap Ivory	Procter & Gambl	3.10 OZ	1.40
534	Soap Irish Spring	Colgate	3.20 OZ	1.15
5351	Soap FreshScent Antibacterial	FreshScent	5.00 OZ	1.85
540	Soap Dish Plastic	Polypro Plastic	1.00 Each	0.50
541	Toothbrush Holder	7.5" Clear Plas	1.00 Each	0.50
552	Shampoo Protein/Body Wash	DawnMist	8.00 OZ	2.10
554	Shampoo Dandruff	Personal Care	12.00 OZ	2.85
557	Hair Dress Blue Magic	J Strickland Co	4.00 OZ	3.45
558	Hair Conditioner	Dawn Mist	8.00 OZ	2.45
5589	Hair Gel Styling Clear	Super Wet	8.80 OZ	3.55
562	Body Powder 4oz	DawnMist	4.00 OZ	1.25
566	Lotion Hand & Body 8oz	FreshScent	8.00 OZ	1.90
568	Lotion Cocoa Butter	Ocean (Clear)	12.00 OZ	2.10
5690	Aquaphor Ointment (1 packet)	Aquaphor	0.90 Gram	0.85
5720	Cocoa Butter Stick	CocoCare	1.00 OZ	3.05
579	Antifungal Cream	Tolnaftate 1%	0.50 OZ	2.10
580	Foot Powder	Fresh Scent	4.00 OZ	1.20
5812	Hydrocortisone Cream	CareAll	1.00 OZ	2.45
5813	Triple Antibiotic Ointment .9gm	SafeTec 400mgBa	0.90 Gram	0.37
5821	Cetirizine Allergy 10mg (100ct)	NorthStar	100.00 Count	12.95
5822	Fiber-Lax (60ct)	Rugby	60.00 Count	16.55

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5822	Fiber-Lax (60ct)	Rugby	60.00 Count	16.55
5823	Loratadine 10mg Allergy (1ct)	McKesson	1.00 Pack	0.85
5824	Simethicone AntiGas 80mg (100ct)	Geri Care	100.00 Count	7.15
583	Tampon - Regular	BB Cardboard	1.00 Count	0.30
5831	Tampon - Super	BB Cardboard	1.00 Count	0.30
584	Denture Tablet (1)	Efferdent	1.00 Count	0.15
585	Laundry Detergent (All)	All	2.00 OZ	0.75
5860	Laundry Bag 18x24 Tie Top	BB	1.00 Each	6.95
5875	Denture Adhesive 2oz	Dawn Mist	2.00 OZ	4.95
588	Towel (Brown)	20X40 5 LB	1.00 Each	3.75
5891	Washcloth (White)	12X12	1.00 Each	0.50
590	Multi Vitamin (100ct)	GeriCare	100.00 Count	4.35
5901	Vitamin C (100ct)	GeriCare 500mg	100.00 Count	10.55
5903	Vitamin B1 100mg (100ct)	Marlex	100.00 Count	15.55
5904	Vitamin B12 1000mg (100ct)	Geri Care	100.00 Count	18.55
5905	Vitamin B2 25mg (100ct)	Optimum	100.00 Count	6.55
5906	Vitamin D3 25mg (100ct)	Geri Care	100.00 Count	6.55
5907	Vitamin Zinc 50mg (100ct)	SunMark	100.00 Count	12.95
5908	Melatonin 60ct	Basic 3mg	60.00 Count	14.95
5912	Contact (Saline) Solution	Good Sense	12.00 OZ	8.95
5914	Contact Lens Case	FlipTop	1.00 Each	1.45
592	Aspirin (2pk)	Moore 325mg	2.00 Pack	0.30
593	Ibuprofen (2pk)	MediFirst 200mg	2.00 Pack	0.30

594	Antacid (Roll)	Tums	8.00 Count	1.40
595	Cough Drops - Regular	Halls	9.00 Count	1.95
596	Chapstick	Chap-Ice	0.15 OZ	1.25
597	Acetaminophen (2pk)	Moore 325mg	2.00 Pack	0.30
598	Acne Treatment	Dr Sheffield	1.00 OZ	2.55

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600	CLOTHING			
602	Socks Tube	CottonPlus	1.00 Pair	0.90
603	Socks Cotton Crew	One Source	1.00 Pair	0.90
6048	Kufi - Black	Black Kufi	1.00 Each	21.95
6049	Kufi - White	Kufi White	1.00 Each	13.95
606	Boxer Shorts (M)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.25
607	Boxer Shorts (L)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.25
608	Boxer Shorts (XL)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.25
609	Boxer Shorts (2XL)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.40
610	Boxer Shorts (3XL)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.40
6101	Mens Briefs (S)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.00
6102	Mens Briefs (M)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.00
6103	Mens Briefs (L)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.00
6104	Mens Briefs (XL)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.00
6105	Mens Briefs (2XL)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.10
6106	Mens Briefs (3XL)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.10
6107	Boxer Shorts (4XL)	DillionXWear	1.00 Pair	2.55
612	T-Shirt (M)	FOTL	1.00 Each	3.10
613	T-Shirt (L)	FOTL	1.00 Each	3.10
614	T-Shirt (XL)	FOTL	1.00 Each	3.10
615	T-Shirt (2XL)	FOTL	1.00 Each	3.65
6155	T-Shirt (3XL)	FOTL	1.00 Each	3.65
6156	T-Shirt (4XL)	FOTL	1.00 Each	4.25
6189	Sports Bra (2XL/42)	GSA ADVANTAGE	1.00 Each	3.95
6190	Sports Bra (XL38)	GSA ADVANTAGE	1.00 Each	3.45
6192	Sports Bra (M34)	GSA ADVANTAGE	1.00 Each	3.45
6193	Sports Bra (L36)	GSA ADVANTAGE	1.00 Each	3.45
620	Shower Shoes (S5/6)	PVC	1.00 Pair	4.50
621	Shower Shoes (M7/8)	PVC	1.00 Pair	4.50
623	Shower Shoes (L9/10)	PVC	1.00 Pair	4.50
625	Shower Shoes (XL11/12)	PVC	1.00 Pair	4.50
6490	Tennis Shoe Velcro Low (6)	Velcro Bobs Blk	1.00 Pair	15.95

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700	MISCELLANEOUS			
7011	Letter Pad Staple Free	Gummed	1.00 Each	1.80
7041	Pencil Golf	4" #2	4.00 Inch	0.30
7052	Env. 9x12 Manilla No Clasp	Manilla	1.00 Each	0.45
7063	Notebook Wireless	80pages	1.00 Each	3.15
7087	Env. Unstamped (Allegheny,PA)	Copy Rite Cust.	1.00 Each	0.45
7115	Carbonless Paper 2 Part Unlined		1.00 Count	0.40
712	Eraser Large	Sargent	1.00 Each	1.15
7131	Pen Flex (Black)	Max.Sec. Clear	4.00 Inch	0.75
7143	Crayons	CraZart	24.00 Pack	5.55
715	Art/Memo Pad	8.5X11 50 sheet	1.00 Each	3.05
730	Playing Cards (Poker)	Playingcards	1.00 Deck	2.75
731	Playing Cards (Pinochle)	MAVERICK	1.00 Deck	2.95
732	Crossword Puzzle Book	Kappa 4.25x8.25	1.00 Each	2.85
7321	Word Find Puzzle Book	Kappa 4.25x8.25	1.00 Each	2.85
7322	Coloring Book (Adult)	Designer Series	1.00 Each	2.85
7325	Sudoku Puzzle Book	Kappa 4.25x8.25	1.00 Each	2.85
733	Eraser Cap	Charles Leonard	1.00 Each	0.25
7351	Holy Qur'an	7x4"	1.00 Each	15.95
7352	Bible Spanish	5x8	1.00 Each	9.95
7356	Bible Holy New Intl Ver	BB-Paperback	1.00 Each	12.95
7362	Rosary Plastic	16.5" Plastic	1.00 Each	4.55
7363	Muslim Prayer Beads(Blk)	Plastic Black	1.00 Each	12.95
740	Tumbler 22oz	Plastic	22.00 OZ	1.45
7442	Spork Plastic (Lightweight)	Tan lightweight	1.00 Each	0.50
746	Bowl Soup w/Lid	White Plastic	24.00 OZ	1.95
760	AAA Battery (1)	BatteriesPlus	1.00 Each	0.95
7743	Earbuds w/Mic (Black Cord)	Sentry	1.00 Set	7.75
7777	Radio AM/FM (Clear)	JWIN	1.00 Each	31.95
781	Chess Set	Pressman	1.00 Set	8.55
782	Checker Set	Pressman	1.00 Set	7.95
7835	Dominoes	Pressman-Wooden	28.00 Count	5.95
790	Eye Glasses 1.25	Cheetah	1.00 Pair	8.95

APPENDIX

Literature Review for the Role of Cash at the Time of Release from Incarceration

Upon release from incarceration, many individuals have immediate needs including transportation, food, shelter, clothing, communication access (e.g. a phone) and documentation (e.g., state ID). In the United States, approximately 90% of returning citizens report food insecurity, over 40% lack stable housing, and more than 60% experience chronic unemployment in the early weeks following release (Rodriguez & Chatman, 2025). Many receive little to no formal support to meet these needs, making them vulnerable to poverty, instability and re-offending. Studies consistently identify this early post-release period as one of acute risk (Petersilia, 2003; Visser & Travis, 2003). In this context, access to immediate financial resources—especially small, unconditional cash amounts—may support individuals in meeting immediate needs.

“Gate money,” or small cash grants provided at the time of release, is a common policy in many jurisdictions. These payments typically range from \$10 to \$200. Evidence from a natural experiment in Uruguay (Munyo & Rossi, 2015) suggests that increasing funds upon release significantly reduces short-term recidivism tripling the amount given at release effectively eliminated first day property crimes. A controlled study by the Connecticut Department of Corrections tested the effects of release payments of \$20, \$50 and \$470 on parolee outcomes: while those receiving the higher amount showed slightly better employment and compliance, no statistically significant differences in recidivism were observed at six months (Feeley, 1979). Qualitative evidence generally finds that these funds are crucial to meet immediate needs like food, bus tickets, or a phone call and yet still largely insufficient (Armstrong & Lewis, 2019).

More recent research of larger and sustained transfers like those in guaranteed income pilots (Gainesville, Durham) demonstrated stronger results while funding was ongoing (e.g., reduced food insecurity, mental health improvements), though many of these benefits did not persist after payments ended. The Returning Citizens Stimulus (RCS) program, which delivered up to \$2,750 over two months tied to conditions, led to a reduction in parole violations and fewer violent violations within six months (Schwartz, 2022).

Most effective cash transfer models for individuals exiting incarceration combine larger disbursements (several hundred dollars or more) spread over weeks or months, paired with reentry engagement (such as resume workshops or job applications). Programs like RCS show that this structure can meaningfully reduce violations and support short-term stability. In contrast, there are only a few studies looking at the evidence for a one-time transfer of small amounts of funding at jail exit. The evidence from these studies shows mixed results.

APPENDIX

Local Outcomes for Those Released With and Without Money

APPENDIX TABLE 4: Outcomes for those released in 2024 with a final balance of \$0 compared to those released with a final balance of \$75 or more.

OUTCOME	RELEASED WITH \$0 (N=470)	RELEASED WITH \$75 OR MORE (N=1969)
Rebooking (1 week)	2%	2%
Rebooking (1 month)	9%	7%
Rebooking (3 months)	23%	18%
Rebooking (6 months)	36%	29%
Emergency Department Visits (1 month)	13%	11%
Emergency Department Visits (3 months)	27%	23%
Emergency Department Visits (6 months)	39%	34%
Emergency Shelter or Street Outreach (1 month)	5%	6%
Emergency Shelter or Street Outreach (3 months)	7%	8%
Emergency Shelter or Street Outreach (6 months)	9%	9%

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